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- d) contacting the gp160 with an alkylating agent;
  - e) contacting the gp160 with an oxidizing agent;
  - f) contacting the gp160 with an ionic detergent, and
  - g) dialyzing the gp160 against a neutral detergent.

19. (New) A method of producing the trimer according to any one of claims 11 - 13, the method comprising:

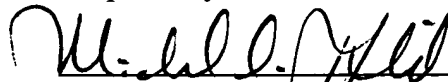
- a) expressing gp160 or fragment thereof;
- b) purifying the gp160;
- c) contacting the gp160 with an ionic detergent;
- d) contacting the gp160 with a reducing agent;
- e) contacting the gp160 with an oxidizing agent; and
- f) dialyzing the gp160 against a neutral detergent.

#### REMARKS

If there are any questions or comments regarding this Response or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Date: January 25, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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